



# The importance of 'soft subjects'

Student wellbeing is important not only for health reasons, but also for improving motivation, attainment and productivity, as well as social and emotional development. Here, five schools explain the importance of 'soft subjects', and how their students' wellbeing is protected in safe, supportive and inclusive environments



**'TOWER HOUSE SCHOOL (THS) in London is a shining example of how a small school can make a big impact through innovative projects that run alongside the core curriculum and nurture well rounded young men,' explained Neill Lunnon, head of THS.**

'In today's rapidly evolving world, the ability to collaborate, adapt, think creatively, and build emotional resilience is essential – and schools that embed these soft skills into daily life are giving their pupils a critical edge.

'Boys are encouraged every day to discover and develop their individual strengths. Whether it's performing in a West End-quality school production, curating their own artwork for sale, or launching a business, opportunities abound for personal growth. These experiences are more than just enrichment; they are foundational in ensuring a pupil thrives.

'At Tower House, the Governors Project, introduced in 2024, invites Year 7 and 8 boys to pursue a passion

over the summer. From designing fly-fishing rods to producing political manifestos, the breadth and creativity of submissions is astounding. Presenting their work to the wider community builds confidence, public speaking skills and pride in independent learning.'

Similarly, the Tower Project places Year 7 pupils into entrepreneurial teams to set up a business, with actual cash budgets, to develop and run across the year. Adult mentors from a range of industries support the boys in idea generation, logo design, website creation and budgeting. This is a way to teach entrepreneurship, teamwork and areas such as financial literacy in a meaningful and real-life way.

The inaugural THS Art Fair took place at the start of the summer term 2025, with every boy across the school invited to create a piece of art, in any medium, and exhibit it for sale. A pupil-led 'curation committee' supported the set-up of the exhibition, selecting specific pieces to go to auction. Nearly



£2,000 worth of art was sold by students, with proceeds divided between a charity and the artist. Two professional art curators delivered a talk in advance of the fair to demystify the world of art.

Mr Lunnon said: 'At Tower House, a culture of encouragement and celebration empowers boys to explore their passions, build confidence and succeed – reflected in an exceptionally high number of scholarships awarded to Year 8 leavers each year.

'THS is small in size, but with a huge heart and limitless ambition, it has opportunities for every boy to develop skills for life.'

**Meanwhile, 'at FRANCIS HOLLAND PREP in the heart of Chelsea, we believe a holistic education is key to developing well-rounded, happy girls,' explained Caroline Smith, senior deputy head pastoral.**

The school's approach is

underpinned by the eight Cs – curiosity, creativity, collaboration, communication, confidence, commitment, craftsmanship and compassion.

Alongside a broad academic curriculum, Francis Holland Prep offers more than 60 co-curricular clubs, from debating to yoga to chess to cookery, encouraging every girl to discover and develop her unique strengths.

Ms Smith said: 'Our pupils thrive in a nurturing community where kindness and friendship are hugely valued – our Friendology programme teaches girls to navigate relationships and resolve conflict with kindness, equipping them with character strengths including confidence, empathy, self-control, integrity and emotional and moral intelligence.

'The creative arts are integral to daily life, and we are proud finalists for a prestigious national